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PRESS RELEASES

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OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

For Immediate Release
Monday, May 31, 1943

OWI-1941

Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, today issued the following statement:

The press recently has carried statements attributed to Robert E. Stripling, identified as chief investigator of the Committee on Un-American Activity, that spies and saboteurs have been released from relocation centers. This statement reveals a complete ignorance of the manner in which this agency is conducting its program.

No evacuee is permitted to leave a relocation center if there is any indication that he would in any way endanger the national security. The granting of permits to leave is handled very carefully on an individual basis. We have records on all people over the age of 17 who are being considered for leave; these records cover family relationships, training, experience, contacts with Japan, and other pertinent facts.

In addition we have available and we utilize information from the intelligence agencies of the government in determining whether or not there is anything in the record of an evacuee which would make it undesirable for him to live outside of a relocation center.

We presume that anyone having evidence of disloyal activity on the part of relocated evacuees will transmit that information promptly to the agencies of the government which are responsible for apprehending dangerous persons. To our knowledge not one instance of disloyal activity on the part of any of the twelve thousand persons of Japanese ancestry on leave from relocation centers has been reported.

The statements attributed to Mr. Stripling have the effect of misleading the public on an important principle of democracy. That principle centers around the question of whether loyal American citizens and law abiding aliens should be kept in confinement for the duration of the war, or whether they should be given the opportunity to contribute to the war effort in a normal manner in our democratic society. The War Relocation Authority was established for the purpose of relocating people evacuated from military areas. Our belief is that such people should be re-established in normal communities unless they are found to be potentially dangerous. In administering our leave program, we are taking all proper precautions to protect the national security.

We welcome a thorough investigation of our program, but we feel that the charges which have been made are irresponsible and detrimental to the war effort.

*Miss
Report*
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OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

NB-1178

Text of Address by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, over the National Broadcasting Company network at 10:45 p.m., EWT, Thursday, July 15, 1943.

During recent weeks, a great deal of public attention has been given to the War Relocation Authority, the relocation centers, and the Japanese-American people who live in these centers. Unfortunately, much of the information given circulation was untrue, and misleading. Much of what has been said has caused confusion, by focusing attention on some minor details and covering up the really basic issues.

The proper handling of the people of Japanese ancestry who were removed from their homes along the Pacific Coast into relocation centers is a matter of importance to every person in the United States. It is essential that everyone who gives thought to the problem keep certain facts clearly in mind.

First---enemy aliens suspected of being subversive were arrested immediately after Pearl Harbor and are now interned. They have never been in relocation centers.

Second---During the first month of the evacuation period -- in March 1942 -- the Japanese-American people were first told simply that they must move out of the Pacific coastal zone and were free to go anywhere else they liked. It was only after this voluntary movement had caused difficulties that controlled evacuation came into the picture. Relocation centers were established primarily to provide living quarters for the evacuees while long-range resettlement plans were being worked out.

The evacuation did not imply for one moment that all evacuees were guilty or even suspected of endangering the national safety. It was a precautionary move taken in view of the exceedingly critical military situation on the West Coast. The evacuees in the relocation centers are not charged with any crime or subversive intentions; they are a dislocated people who had to have some place to live-- and the relocation centers seemed to be the most feasible temporary solution to the problem. There is no reason to conduct the relocation centers as internment camps or prisons.

On the contrary, there are good reasons why they should not be so conducted. Two-thirds of the people who were moved into relocation centers were born in this country. They are American citizens, and 72 per cent of this citizen group have never even seen Japan.

(over)

X-18063

In the ten relocation centers, the evacuees are provided with most of the basic necessities of life--and the opportunity to earn a small amount of money so they may buy other things not provided by the government. They receive food, lodging, and medical care, and schooling is provided for the children.

The living quarters are barrack-type frame buildings, divided into family-size compartments--and furnished with cots, mattresses, blankets and heating stoves. There is no running water or cooking facilities in the barracks--but community bath houses and mess halls are located in each block to serve 250 to 300 people.

The school program is planned to meet the standards of the state where the center is located, but until recently there were no buildings put up especially for school purposes. Classes have been held in barrack buildings originally intended for living quarters or for recreation.

The medical service in a relocation center is barely adequate even as measured by wartime standards. Non-Japanese doctors and nurses are in charge of the medical staff in each center, but most of the staff is composed of evacuees.

Any community of--say--ten thousand people, eating three meals a day--will require a lot of food. Most of the relocation centers were able to produce very little of their own food last year--and so most of it had to be brought in. People who have seen the trucks going into the relocation centers loaded with food quite naturally have been impressed with the large amounts--and so many rumors have started that the evacuees in relocation centers are getting huge amounts of food--far more than other civilians.

I want to say right here and now that people in relocation centers are rationed--just the same as the rest of us. Most of the food is bought through the Quartermaster Corps of the Army. But there is a top limit of 45 cents a day per person which may be spent for food, and the actual cost has ranged from 34 to 42 cents a day. By way of comparison, the Army allows a maximum of 61 cents a day and actually spends 55 to 57 cents a day for each man. From the standpoint of quality, the food served in the centers is, of course, never better than Army standards. And on many items, such as beef, it is definitely inferior.

The government of the United States has an obligation to feed the evacuees in the relocation centers but--we are doing it in strict accord with rationing regulations--and with a keen regard for the heavy demands on the nation's food supply.

I won't take time to dwell on other details of the relocation center activities--except to say that the War Relocation Authority is operating with a minimum staff--and has attempted to give a maximum of responsibility to the evacuees themselves for providing the services needed by the community--and for managing their own affairs.

The wages for those who work are just about enough to provide for the necessities--12, 16, or 19 dollars a month--plus a small clothing allowance for each member of the worker's family. The evacuees are not compelled to work--but only those who do work receive wages and clothing allowances. About 90 per cent of the employable evacuees at the centers are now engaged in some kind of work.

In spite of the fact that the War Relocation Authority is responsible for managing the ten relocation centers--we don't feel that they are desirable institutions, or anything in which the people of the United States can take pride. It isn't the American way to have children grow up behind barbed wire. It may be possible to make good Americans out of them--but the very surroundings make a mockery out of principles we have always cherished and respected. It's difficult to reconcile democracy with barbed wire--freedom with armed sentries--liberty with searchlights.

But, in spite of these discouraging surroundings, Americanism is predominant in the relocation centers. It is taught in the schools--in the adult education classes--through organizations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America, Girl Reserves, and Parent-Teacher Associations. Several of the centers have U.S.O. Clubs or similar arrangements for the entertainment of soldiers of Japanese ancestry who come back to the centers to see their families or friends.

However, there are some people in the relocation centers who have indicated that they prefer to be Japanese rather than American. And there are others whose records indicate that they might endanger the national security. Accordingly, we are planning within the next few weeks to segregate these pro-Japanese people and establish them in a single center where they will live for the duration of the war or until repatriated to Japan. It has taken time to gather enough information for such a program of segregation. We now have the necessary information and we expect to carry out the program as soon as transportation can be obtained to make the move.

We feel that the remainder of the population--those who are thoroughly American in their loyalties--should not be required to remain in relocation centers. They can make a much greater contribution to the war effort by working on farms, in factories, and in other places where their abilities can be used to best advantage.

In the spring of last year, when the evacuation was only beginning, there was an insistent demand from sugar beet growers and refiners for evacuees to work in the beet fields of the Western States. Before the harvest season was over, about 10,000 people from the centers had gone to work in the fields of the West--and they harvested enough beets to provide a year's sugar ration for about 10 million people.

The results of that program were generally good from every point of view. And so the War Relocation Authority went one step further. Starting in July one year ago, we began to work out a program whereby evacuees with sound records might leave the centers indefinitely to take jobs and establish homes in normal communities. Up to the present time, about 10,000 of the evacuated people have taken advantage of these procedures and have gone out on indefinite leave to establish themselves mainly throughout the interior sections of the country. In addition, approximately 6,000 have gone out on seasonal leave for work chiefly on farms throughout irrigated sections of the West. And in all these months, not one case of disloyal activity on the part of these people has been reported from any reliable source.

(Over)

X-18063

Within the past few weeks, there has been a great deal of public discussion about the release of people from relocation centers. The procedures for granting release and the methods of investigating individual evacuees have been widely misunderstood. So tonight I want to state those procedures just as clearly as I can in order that the public may have the true facts. Over a period of many months, we have gathered a considerable amount of information on each evacuee 17 years or over -- information on their individual backgrounds and interests and their past employment records. Before any evacuee is granted indefinite leave, this information is carefully checked at the relocation center. If there is any indication that the evacuee might endanger the national security or interfere with the war effort, permission for leave is denied.

In addition--as a further precaution--we have submitted the names of all evacuees past 17 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI has now checked nearly 90 per cent of these names against its files and has supplied us with whatever information it had on the individuals involved. We have been using this information in determining eligibility for leave. But I want to emphasize the determination is made by WRA and not by FBI.

There are certain classes of evacuees who automatically are denied leave: one-- those who have asked to be repatriated or expatriated to Japan, two-- Shinto priests, three-- American citizens who have refused to swear allegiance to the United States and four-- those who have been denied leave once because of bad records. At the same time, there are thousands whose records show no reason why they should not be permitted to leave the centers.

The main point I want to make concerning the granting of leave to evacuees is this: the War Relocation Authority is exerting all proper precautions for the national security--and at the same time is providing the means for loyal American citizens and law-abiding aliens--to take their place in the national life and enjoy the freedoms which are assured by the Constitution.

The War Relocation Authority recognizes that the foremost task before the people of this country is to win the war. This means concentrating on fighting the enemy -- rather than fighting among ourselves -- and using all our available manpower where it can do the most good.

We have faith in the American democratic way of life, with equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities for all, regardless of race, creed, or national origin.

We assume that the great majority of the people of Japanese ancestry now in this country will stay here during the war and afterwards.

We have confidence in the ability of the armed forces to wage the war, and of the authorized intelligence agencies of the Government to give proper surveillance to all suspected or potential enemies within our country.

We believe that it is possible to distinguish between the loyal and the disloyal people of Japanese ancestry, as well as with other national or racial groups, to a degree which will insure the national security.

We believe loyalty grows and sustains itself only when it is given a chance. It cannot flourish in an atmosphere of suspicion and discrimination.

Let me repeat -- the manner in which the WRA conducts its program is of concern to all the people in the U.S. And it has a significance which goes far beyond the boundaries of this country. Our actions are being watched in Japan, where thousands of American soldiers and civilians are held as prisoners or internees; undoubtedly they are being watched in China, India, Burma and other countries whose collaboration is necessary if we are to defeat our enemies surely and quickly. These countries are watching our actions to see if we mean what we say when we talk about racial equality.

So it is important that we all approach this problem sanely and calmly, without racial emotion or hysteria. As I have said before, let's not handle this problem as Hitler would handle it in Nazi Germany, or as Tojo would approach it in Japan. Let's do it the American way.

X-18063

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

OWI-2712

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

ADVANCE RELEASE: To Be Held in STRICTEST CONFIDENCE and NOT to Be Used by
PRESS or RADIO BEFORE 8:00 p.m., EWT, SATURDAY, November 13, 1943.

Dillon S. Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, today issued the following statement regarding the events that occurred between November 1 and November 4 at the Tule Lake Center in northern California:

1. Tule Lake is the only center maintained by the War Relocation Authority for segregation purposes. It was established originally in 1942 as one of 10 relocation centers for persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the West Coast military area. In September of this year, however, it was made the focal point in a segregation program carried out by the War Relocation Authority and since that time has occupied a peculiar status among WRA centers.

During February and March of this year a registration program was conducted at all relocation centers for the purpose of accumulating information on the background and attitudes of all adult residents. As part of this program, citizen evacuees at the centers were questioned concerning their allegiance to the United States, and alien evacuees were questioned about their willingness to abide by the Nation's laws. After the results of registration were compiled and analyzed, W.R.A. began a program to separate from the bulk of the population at relocation centers, those evacuees who have indicated by word or action that their loyalties lie with Japan.

Four major groups were designated for segregation:

- (1) Those who requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan;
- (2) Citizens who refused during registration to state unqualified allegiance to the United States; and aliens who refused to agree to abide by the laws of the United States;
- (3) Those with intelligence records or other records indicating that they might endanger the national security or interfere with the war effort;
- (4) Close relatives of persons in the above three groups who expressed a preference to remain with the segregants rather than disrupt family ties.

The major movement of segregants into Tule Lake from other WRA centers and of non-segregants from Tule Lake to other WRA centers was started in early September and completed about the middle of October. The process, which was carried out jointly by WRA and the Army involved the movement of approximately 9,000 evacuees from other centers into Tule Lake and the removal from Tule Lake to other centers of approximately the same number. Slightly more than 6,000 residents of Tule Lake who had been designated for segregation or who wish to remain with segregated relatives were retained there. At the present time, there are at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California approximately 1,900 evacuees who are awaiting transfer to Tule Lake. They will be transferred as soon as necessary housing can be completed, probably in the early part of 1944.

2. The Army has the responsibility of providing full protection of the area surrounding the Tule Lake Center. A man-proof fence surrounds the external boundaries of the center; troops patrol that fence; other necessary facilities are at all times in readiness. In September, when Tule Lake was transformed into a segregation center, the Army substantially increased the number of troops assigned to guard duty at the center and built the present man-proof fence around the external boundary outside the ordinary wire fence which was erected at the time of the center's establishment. At this time also additional military equipment was provided.

During the recent disturbance at the Tule Lake Center, the War Relocation Authority and the Army have been in constant contact regarding necessary safety measures. Special arrangements were made for prompt communication between the WRA staff and the officer commanding the troops at Tule Lake.

Like all WRA centers, Tule Lake has been operated, ever since the time of its establishment in 1942, under the terms of an agreement between WRA and the War Department. WRA is responsible for all phases of internal administration of the center. The Army, from the beginning, has been responsible for guarding the external boundaries of the center, and for controlling the entry and departure of all persons of Japanese descent.

WRA maintains order within the center through civilian guards assisted by a staff of evacuees. The understanding with the Army provides that when a show of greater force is necessary to maintain order within the center, WRA will call upon the Army to move inside the center and take full control.

3. Immediately following the segregation movement, some of the evacuees at the Tule Lake Center began to create difficulties. All available evidence indicates that a small, well-organized group -- composed chiefly of persons transferred to Tule Lake from the other centers -- was attempting to gain control of the community and disrupt the orderly process of administration. Against this background, a serious accident occurred at the center on October 15. A truck, carrying 29 evacuee workers and driven by an evacuee, was over-turned while attempting to pass another truck on the road from the center to the WRA farm. All occupants of the truck were injured and one of them subsequently died. On the day following the accident, no evacuee workers reported for duty at the farm.

For a period of approximately 10 days thereafter, work on the harvesting of crops stopped, but no formal representations were made to WRA by evacuee workers. Then on October 25, a group of evacuees who claimed to represent the community met with Project Director Ray Best and submitted a series of questions and demands. Among other things, this committee asked whether the residents of Tule Lake were regarded by the United States government as prisoners of war and stated that the residents would not engage in the harvesting of crops for use at other WRA centers. Project Director Best told the committee: (1) that the residents of Tule Lake were regarded as segregants and not as prisoners of war, (2) that WRA does not operate on the basis of demands, and (3) that if the residents of Tule Lake were unwilling to harvest the crops, some other method of harvesting them would be found.

Faced with the onset of winter and the possibility of losing approximately \$500,000 worth of vegetables, WRA immediately began recruiting loyal evacuees from other centers to carry out the harvesting work at Tule Lake. A crew of 234 was recruited and is still engaged in harvesting work on the Tule Lake Farm. These evacuees are quartered outside the boundaries of the center, wholly apart from the population of the center.

4. On the morning of Monday, November 1, D. S. Myer, national director of the War Relocation Authority, and Robert B. Cozzens, assistant director of the Authority in San Francisco, arrived at the Tule Lake center for an inspection and consultation with key WRA staff members and with evacuee representatives. The original arrangement called for Mr. Myer and Mr. Cozzens to meet with evacuee representatives on the day following their arrival. However, during the lunch hour, a report was received by Project Director Best that certain evacuees were making unauthorized announcements in the evacuee mess halls. Residents were being told, according to this report, that Mr. Myer was to make a speech from the main administration building shortly after lunch. On receiving this report, Mr. Myer and Mr. Best immediately made a quick automobile inspection trip through the evacuee section of the center. They observed that large numbers of men, women and children were proceeding in an orderly manner from the evacuee barracks in the direction of the administration building.

By 1:30 p.m., Mr. Myer and Mr. Best had returned to the administration building and a crowd estimated between 3,500 and 4,000 had congregated immediately outside. One young man from the evacuee group then entered the administration building and asked whether a committee of 17 evacuees might have a conference with Mr. Myer. This request was granted, and Mr. Myer, Mr. Cozzens, Mr. Best and other staff members met with the committee. The committee presented a series of demands including the resignation of Project Director Best and several other WRA staff members at the center.

While the discussion was going on, word was received that a group of about a dozen evacuees had entered the center hospital and beaten the chief medical officer, Dr. Reece M. Pedicord. The conference was interrupted while one WRA staff member left the administration building, passed through the crowd, and went to the hospital for a check up on the situation there. After this man had returned -- wholly unmolested -- with the report that Dr. Pedicord had been badly battered but was receiving adequate medical attention and that order prevailed in the hospital, the conference was resumed. Meanwhile, a small group of evacuees had gone into the administration building and installed a public address system with WRA permission.

At the conclusion of the conference, Director Myer was asked to address the crowd briefly over the address system and agreed to do so. Mr. Myer told the crowd substantially what he had told the committee: (1) that WRA would consider requests made by the evacuee population provided they were in the framework of national policy; (2) that WRA would not accede to demands; (3) that WRA was under the impression that the majority of residents at Tule Lake wanted to live in a peaceful and orderly atmosphere; (4) that if the residents of the center could not deal peacefully with WRA they would have to deal with someone else; and (5) that once the segregation process was wholly completed with the movement from Manzanar, the community at Tule Lake should attempt to select a committee -- more directly representative of its wishes than the current one -- to deal with the War Relocation Authority. After Mr. Myer had concluded his remarks, two members of the evacuee committee addressed the crowd briefly in Japanese. Immediately following the completion of these speeches, at about 4:30 p.m., the crowd broke up quickly and peacefully and returned to family living quarters. During the entire conference and the time when committee members were addressing the crowd, a member of the War Relocation Authority staff who is fully competent in the Japanese language was present and was able to indicate to Mr. Myer and Mr. Best the nature of all remarks made in Japanese.

5. While the meeting was in progress in the administration building a number of automobiles at the center were slightly damaged. Some of these automobiles belonged to visitors and some to WRA personnel. One visitor reported that a window of his car was broken and a sun visor removed. (This statement has not been varified by other evidence.) A door handle was broken off one car. Radio aerials were removed from two cars and windshield wipers from about twelve cars. Air was released from tires of several cars. The paint on two cars was scratched.

In the struggle during which Dr. Pedicord was beaten, a wooden railing in the hospital office was knocked down. A careful investigation has revealed no reliable evidence of any property damage during this incident other than that listed here.

Several WRA employees and visitors to the centers who were in the area outside the administration building at the time the crowd was forming were approached by some of the evacuees directing the movements of the crowd and told to go inside the building. Aside from Dr. Pedicord, however, no WRA employees or visitors were beaten or injured during this incident. The evacuee employees in the administration office left their work. A few individuals reported they saw knives and clubs in the hands of some of the evacuees. The great majority of WRA personnel reported following the meeting that they had seen no weapons of any kind.

6. After dispersal of the crowd on Monday afternoon, a calm marked by some evidence of sub-surface tension prevailed in the evacuee community for approximately three days. Orders were sent out following the Monday meeting forbidding any meetings or assembly of evacuees in the administrative area. The internal security force was strengthened and authority was given for any member of the internal security staff, under certain specified conditions, to summon the Army directly without consultation with the project director or any other superior officer.

On Thursday afternoon, November 4, work was started on a fence separating the evacuee community from the section of the center where the administrative buildings are located and WRA staff members are housed. That evening a crowd of about 400 evacuees, mainly young men -- many of them armed with clubs -- entered the administration area. Most of the crowd entered the warehouse area. A few entered the motor pool area and some surrounded the project director's residence. The advance of this crowd was resisted by several WRA internal security officers, one of whom tripped, struck his head on a stone, and was then struck by evacuees with clubs. No other persons were injured. As the crowd closed in around Mr. Best's home, he telephoned Lt. Col. Verne Austin, commanding officer of the military unit outside the center, and asked the Army to assume full control of the project area. Troops entered the center at once.

7. During and immediately following the evacuee meeting on Monday, a number of the WRA staff became apprehensive concerning their personal safety. Most of them remained calm but a few became almost hysterical. All were offered the opportunity to leave the center until they felt secure in returning there, and a number of them did so. Since the incident on Monday, twelve people have resigned voluntarily, and two have resigned or were separated at the request of the Authority.

8. A large number of the evacuees at Tule Lake are citizens of the United States, with the constitutional rights of citizens. Many of them are children under 17, and they, together with a very large number of the adults, have no responsible part in the recent events.

In presenting this factual statement, the War Relocation Authority wants to emphasize that reports of the events at Tule Lake are being watched in Tokyo. Already some of the recent newspaper accounts have been used by the Japanese Government for propaganda purposes. There is every possibility that they may be used as a pretext for retaliatory action against American civilians and prisoners of war under Japanese control. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that the situation at Tule Lake be handled with a scrupulous regard for accuracy.

9. In view of the serious international implications in the situation at Tule Lake, the War Relocation Authority has been particularly careful in preparing the information contained in this statement. There have been so many exaggerated, even hysterical, reports that the staff at Tule Lake, confronted with an otherwise complicated and difficult situation, has been able to verify conclusively only the information presented in this statement. As this is written, further investigation is being made to check the accuracy of many of the allegations that have appeared in the press and to complete this story in all its pertinent details. The major events, however, have now been fully documented and can for the first time be presented to the public in an official statement.

OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

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During February and March of this year, a registration program was conducted at all relocation centers for the purpose of accumulating information on the background and attitudes of all adult residents. As part of this program, citizen evacuees at the centers were questioned concerning their allegiance to the United States, and alien evacuees were questioned about their willingness to abide by the Nation's laws. After the results of registration were compiled and analyzed, WRA began a program to separate from the bulk of the population at relocation centers, those evacuees who have indicated by word or action that their loyalties lie with Japan.

Four major groups were designated for segregation:

- (1) Those who requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan;
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- (4) Close relatives of persons in the above three groups who expressed a preference to remain with the segregants rather than disrupt family ties.

The major movement of segregants into Tule Lake from other WRA centers and of non-segregants from Tule Lake to other WRA centers was started in early September and completed about the middle of October. The process, which was carried out jointly by WRA and the Army, entirely without incident, involved the movement of approximately 9,000 evacuees from other centers into Tule Lake and the removal from Tule Lake to other centers of approximately the same number. Slightly more than 6,000 residents of Tule Lake who had been designated for segregation or who wished to remain with segregated relatives were retained there. At the present time, there are at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California approximately 1,900 evacuees who are awaiting transfer to Tule Lake. They will be transferred as soon as necessary housing can be completed, probably in the early part of 1944.

2. The Army has the responsibility of providing full protection of the area surrounding the Tule Lake Center. A man-proof fence surrounds the external boundaries of the center; troops patrol that fence; other necessary facilities are at all times in readiness. In September, when Tule Lake was transformed into a segregation center, the Army substantially increased the number of troops assigned to guard duty at the center and built the present man-proof fence around the external boundary outside the ordinary wire fence which was erected at the time of the center's establishment. At this time also additional military equipment was provided.

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WRA maintains order within the center through civilian guards assisted by a staff of evacuees. The understanding with the Army provides that when a show of greater force is necessary to maintain order within the center, WRA will call upon the Army to move inside the center and take full control.

3. Immediately following the segregation movement, some of the evacuees at the Tule Lake Center began to create difficulties. All available evidence indicates that a small, well-organized group -- composed chiefly of persons transferred to Tule Lake from the other centers -- was attempting to gain control of the community and disrupt the orderly process of administration. Against this background, a serious accident occurred at the center on October 15. A truck, carrying 29 evacuee workers and driven by an evacuee, was over-turned while attempting to pass another truck on the road from the center to the WRA farm. All occupants of the truck were injured and one of them subsequently died. On the day following the accident, no evacuee workers reported for duty at the farm.

For a period of approximately 10 days thereafter, work on the harvesting of crops stopped, but no formal representations were made to WRA by evacuee workers. Then on October 25, a group of evacuees who claimed to represent the community met with Project Director Ray Best and submitted a series of questions and demands. Among other things, this committee asked whether the residents of Tule were regarded by the United States government as prisoners of war and stated that the residents would not engage in the harvesting of crops for use at other WRA centers. Project Director Best told the committee: (1) that the residents of Tule Lake were regarded as segregants and not as prisoners of war, (2) that WRA does not operate on the basis of demands, and (3) that if the residents of Tule Lake were unwilling to harvest the crops, some other method of harvesting them would be found.

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4. On the morning of Monday, November 1, D. S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority, and Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director of the Authority in San Francisco, arrived at the Tule Lake center for an inspection and consultation with key WRA staff members and with evacuee representatives. The original arrangement called for Mr. Myer and Mr. Cozzens to meet with evacuee representatives on the day following their arrival. However, during the lunch hour, a report was received by Project Director Best that certain evacuees were making unauthorized announcements in the evacuee messhalls. Residents were being told, according to this report, that Mr. Myer was to make a speech from the main administration building shortly after lunch. On receiving this report, Mr. Myer and Mr. Best immediately made a quick automobile inspection trip through the evacuee section of the center. They observed that large numbers of men, women and children were proceeding in an orderly manner from the evacuee barracks in the direction of the administration building.

By 1:30 p.m., Mr. Myer and Mr. Best had returned to the administration building and a crowd estimated between 3,500 and 4,000 had congregated immediately outside. One young man from the evacuee group then entered the administration building and asked whether a committee of 17 evacuees might have a conference with Mr. Myer. This request was granted, and Mr. Myer, Mr. Cozzens, Mr. Best and other staff members met with the committee. The committee presented a series of demands including the resignation of project director Best and several other WRA staff members at the center.

While the discussion was going on, word was received that a group of about a dozen evacuees had entered the center hospital and beaten the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Reece M. Pedicord. The conference was interrupted while one WRA staff member left the administration building, passed through the crowd, and went to the hospital for a check-up on the situation there. After this man had returned-- wholly unmolested -- with the report that Dr. Pedicord had been badly battered but was receiving adequate medical attention and that order prevailed in the hospital, the conference was resumed. Meanwhile, a small group of evacuees had gone into the administration building and installed a public address system with WRA permission.

At the conclusion of the conference, Director Myer was asked to address the crowd briefly over the address system and agreed to do so. Mr. Myer told the crowd substantially what he had told the committee: (1) that WRA would consider requests made by the evacuee population provided they were in the framework of national policy; (2) that WRA would not accede to demands; (3) that WRA was under the impression that the majority of residents at Tule Lake wanted to live in a peaceful and orderly atmosphere; (4) that if the residents of the center could not deal peacefully with WRA they would have to deal with someone else; and (5) that once the segregation process was wholly completed with the movement from Manzanar, the community at Tule Lake should attempt to select a committee -- more directly representative of its wishes than the current one -- to deal with the War Relocation Authority. After Mr. Myer had concluded his remarks, two members of the evacuee committee addressed the crowd briefly in Japanese. Immediately following the completion of these speeches, at about 4:30 p.m., the crowd broke up quickly and peacefully and returned to family living quarters. During the entire conference and the time when committee members were addressing the crowd, a member of the War Relocation Authority staff who is fully competent in the Japanese language was present and was able to indicate to Mr. Myer and Mr. Best the nature of all remarks made in Japanese.

5. While the meeting was in progress in the administration building a number of automobiles at the center were slightly damaged. Some of those automobiles belonged to visitors and some to WRA personnel. One visitor reported that a window of his car was broken and a sun visor removed. (This statement has not been verified by other evidence.) A door handle was broken off one car. Radio aerials were removed from two cars and windshield wipers from about twelve cars. Air was released from tires of several cars. The paint on two cars was scratched.

In the struggle during which Dr. Pedicord was beaten, a wooden railing in the hospital office was knocked down. A careful investigation has revealed no reliable evidence of any property damage during this incident other than that listed here.

Several WRA employees and visitors to the center who were in the area outside the administration building at the time the crowd was forming were approached by some of the evacuees directing the movements of the crowd and told to go inside the building. Aside from Dr. Pedicord, however, no WRA employees or visitors were beaten or injured during this incident. The evacuee employees in the administration office left their work. A few individuals reported they saw knives and clubs in the hands of some of the evacuees. The great majority of WRA personnel reported following the meeting that they had seen no weapons of any kind.

6. After dispersal of the crowd on Monday afternoon, a calm marked by some evidence of sub-surface tension prevailed in the evacuee community for approximately three days. Orders were sent out following the Monday meeting forbidding any meetings or assembly of evacuees in the administrative area. The internal security force was strengthened and authority was given for any member of the internal security staff, under certain specified conditions, to summon the Army directly without consultation with the Project Director or any other superior officer.

On Thursday afternoon, November 4, work was started on a fence separating the evacuated community from the section of the center where the administrative buildings are located and WRA staff members are housed. That evening a crowd of about 400 evacuees, mainly young men -- many of them armed with clubs -- entered the administration area. Most of the crowd entered the warehouse area. A few entered the motor pool area and some surrounded the Project Director's residence. The advance of this crowd was resisted by several WRA internal security officers, one of whom tripped, struck his head on a stone, and was then struck by evacuees with clubs. No other persons were injured. As the crowd closed in around Mr. Best's home, he telephoned Lt. Col. Verne Austin, commanding officer of the military unit outside the center, and asked the Army to assume full control of the project area. Troops entered the center at once.

7. During and immediately following the evacuee meeting on Monday, a number of the WRA staff became apprehensive concerning their personal safety. Most of them remained calm but a few became almost hysterical. All were offered the opportunity to leave the center until they felt secure in returning there, and a number of them did so. Since the incident on Monday, twelve people have resigned voluntarily, and two have resigned or were separated at the request of the Authority.
8. A large number of the evacuees at Tule Lake are citizens of the United States, with the constitutional rights of citizens. Many of them are children under 17, and they, together with a very large number of the adults, have no responsible part in the recent events.

In presenting this factual statement, the War Relocation Authority wants to emphasize that reports of the events at Tule Lake are being watched in Tokyo. Already some of the recent newspaper accounts have been used by the Japanese Government for propaganda purposes. There is every possibility that they may be used as a pretext for retaliatory action against American civilians and prisoners of war under Japanese control. Under these circumstances, it is imperative that the situation at Tule Lake be handled with a scrupulous regard for accuracy.

9. In view of the serious international implications in the situation at Tule Lake, the War Relocation Authority has been particularly careful in preparing the information contained in this statement. There have been so many exaggerated, even hysterical, reports that the staff at Tule Lake, confronted with an otherwise complicated and difficult situation, has been able to verify conclusively only the information presented in this statement. As this is written, further investigation is being made to check the accuracy of many of the allegations that have appeared in the press and to complete this story in all its pertinent details. The major events, however, have now been fully documented and can for the first time be presented to the public in an official statement.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

For Release at NOON, THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1944.

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes issued the following statement in San Francisco today regarding the program of the War Relocation Authority:

"Immediately after the President, on his own motion, transferred the War Relocation Authority to the Department of the Interior, we began to study its policies and administration. I have recognized from the beginning the difficulty and complexity of the problems, and I realize that the manner of their treatment is of vital importance, not only to the thousands of Japanese Americans who are immediately involved, but to the American civilians who are interned by the Japanese and the families of these Americans. The character and reputation of our own democracy are also involved.

"The War Relocation Authority was given an unenviable job. It was not responsible for the evacuation of the Japanese Americans from the West Coast. That was a military decision. The War Relocation Authority was given the job of providing for the care and welfare of the people who were uprooted and transferred and of arranging for the restoration to normal life of those among them who are the blameless victims of a war-time program. I think that there can be no doubt that the program has, in general, been handled with discretion, humanity and wisdom. WRA did not persecute these people, and it made no attempt to punish those of a different race who were not responsible for what has been happening in the far Pacific. The War Relocation Authority -- make no mistake about it -- has been criticized for not engaging in this sort of a lynching party. Under my jurisdiction, it will not be stamped into undemocratic, bestial, inhuman action. It will not be converted into an instrument of revenge or racial warfare.

"There is a place in this war for deserved anger and for punishment. I have on many occasions called for the punishment of the war criminals whether they have committed their outrages under Tojo and the fiendish military caste of Japan, or under Hitler. Let us see that the guilty are made to feel the heavy hand of justice; but let us not degrade ourselves by injuring innocent, defenseless people. To do this would be to lower ourselves to the level of the fanatical Nazis and Japanese war lords. Civilization expects more from us than from them.

"In resisting the onslaughts of those who would have the War Relocation Authority imitate the savageries of the ruling factions in the nations with which we are at war, I am sure that we have the support of virtually all Americans. I am particularly grateful to those groups and individuals

on the West Coast who have been brave enough and Christian enough to speak out against the vindictive, bloodthirsty onslaughts of professional race mongers.

"All of the Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the West Coast have undergone and are undergoing a most intensive investigation. Those concerning whom there is any basis whatever for a suspicion of disloyalty have been sent to internment camps or are being segregated at Tule Lake. This segregation process is virtually complete, and the thousands of Japanese Americans who remain at the other centers are, by all reasonable tests, loyal American citizens or law-abiding aliens. They are entitled to be treated as such. Those who do not believe in according these people the rights and privileges to which they are entitled under our laws do not believe in the Constitution of the United States.

"All of us recognize that, in time of war, we are subject to orders and restraints which would be intolerable in time of peace. All of us -- regardless of race or religion -- are subject to the overriding demands of military necessity in time of war. No one who is loyal to the United States objects to this. But when military necessity does not require it, no one of us who is an American citizen or a loyal alien can be deprived of his rights under the law. I believe that the only justifiable reason for confinement of a citizen in a democratic nation is the evidence that the individual might endanger the wartime security of the nation.

"The major emphasis in War Relocation Authority operations is now on restoring the people of all WRA centers except Tule Lake as rapidly as possible to private life. Over 20,000 people have already left the centers to make new homes and engage in new jobs in hundreds of communities stretched all of the way from Spokane, Washington, to Boston, Massachusetts. These relocated evacuees are establishing themselves in cities and on farms and many have indicated that they plan to remain in their new locations during the post-war period. Thus the relocation program is contributing to a more widespread dispersal of Japanese Americans throughout the country.

"We must all face the problem of the eventual status and treatment of those Americans of Japanese descent who were taken from their homes and transported to evacuation camps. Most of them, after a thorough investigation, the doubts being resolved in favor of segregating them, have been proved to be loyal and devoted to this Nation. It is intolerable to think that these people will be excluded from a normal life in this country for long. It is intolerable to think that merely because they resided on the West Coast -- in California, or Washington, or Oregon -- they must be wards of the Government for one moment longer than the necessities of war require. I know of no virus in these three States which has infected them so that they must be treated differently than the Japanese Americans who reside in other States. And it is intolerable to think that decent people would suggest that this Nation would for a moment consider sending loyal Americans of Japanese descent to a land which most of them have never seen and in which most of them have no interest.

"To a large extent this is a local problem. It is a problem of you people in California, in Washington and in Oregon. I hope that the clamor of those few among you who are screaming that this situation should be resolved on the basis of prejudice and hate will soon be overwhelmed by the stern remonstrances of those among you -- an overwhelming majority -- who believe in fair play and decency, Christianity, in the principles of America, in the Constitution of the United States."

FUTURE RELEASE
P L E A S E N O T E D A T E

WAR DEPARTMENT
Bureau of Public Relations

FUTURE

RELEASE

FOR RELEASE MONDAY A.M., MAY 1, 1944

JAPANESE-AMERICANS IN ITALY "DEADLY BUNCH," OFFICER REPORTS

Reports on the fighting spirit of the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of American soldiers of Japanese descent on the Italian front, were brought back to this country recently by Captain Issac A. Kawasaki, Medical Corps, who was surgeon for the battalion until a leg wound necessitated his evacuation.

"The Japanese-Americans now fighting in Italy are a deadly bunch," he asserted. "Most of them were born in Hawaii and have never seen Japan. Many lost members of their families in the Pearl Harbor attack and their feelings toward Japan are the same as the feelings of any other Americans. Besides being loyal American citizens, they fully realize the suspicion with which all Japanese in this country are regarded since the Pearl Harbor attack. They are out to fight for their country, which is America, and to prove themselves to their fellow citizens. They are doing it.

"The Japanese-American outfit in Italy is highly respected by other American troops. This bunch wanted to fight the Japs and was keenly disappointed when they learned that they would not be sent into the Pacific theater."

Illustrating the determination with which the members of his old unit fight, Captain Kawasaki told of one soldier who ran away from a base hospital after four days' treatment for wounds. He rejoined his comrades at the front and shortly afterward was severely wounded in the abdomen by shell fragments. He walked and crawled three miles to a first aid station.

Captain Kawasaki was born in Honolulu, of Japanese parents, and was educated in the United States. He received his medical education at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Captain Kawasaki was serving in the Army as a surgeon at Tripler General Hospital, Honolulu. In June, 1942, he was ordered to take command of the training of a medical unit of Japanese-Americans and was sent to Africa with this unit at the time of the Sicilian campaign.

Captain Kawasaki was wounded when he was caring for casualties at an observation post on the front lines. Wearing a brace on his injured leg, he now has been assigned to limited service at Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

OM-1080

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
201 Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

Telephone Douglas 8173 - Ext. 30

FOR RELEASE May 11, 1944

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11 - Nearly 73 per cent of American born Japanese have never visited Japan, a cross-section of the records of the War Relocation Authority show in a recent study made by that agency, it was revealed here today by Robert B. Cozzens, Assistant Director in charge of the West Coast area.

WRA has completed a study of Japanese aliens and American citizens of Japanese ancestry under its jurisdiction. A total of 27,100 cases--one fourth of the total number originally confined in war relocation centers--were checked. Of this number, 9,144 were born in Japan and 17,956 were born in the United States. The figures indicate that two-thirds are American citizens.

Of the 17,956 cases studied, 13,059, or nearly 73 per cent, have never visited Japan.

Of the 4,897 who have been in Japan, 2,583, or nearly 53 per cent of the visiting total, have had no schooling there. And 2,187, or less than one-eighth, have had more than three years of Japanese schooling. Of the age group 20-40, approximately one-fourth of the American-born have had three or more years of schooling in Japan.

Figures show that the ratio of the total American-born to those having some schooling in Japan is 17,956 to 2,314. For those under 21 years of age, the ratio is 10,268 to 216, or 1 in 50.

"The records show that during the more impressionable educational years--elementary, high school and junior college--these youth are receiving their education in America under the democratic tradition," said Assistant Director Cozzens.

"This is the group about whom Carl Sandburg recently wrote in quoting a missionary's letter: 'The lot of the Nisei in Japan was not wholly a happy one.

Their relatives and friends were bewildered and annoyed by these strange young people who looked like Japanese but acted and thought like Americans."

The age distribution of Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans is significant. Of the total 38 per cent, or 10,323 are under 21 years of age; 70 per cent or 18,901 are under forty years. Of the 9,144 foreign born, 7,986--87 per cent--are over forty years, while the American born show just the reverse with 99 per cent under 40 years.

CLASSIFICATION

By nativity, residence and education in Japan	Total	Under	20-39	40 yrs.	Total	Under	20-39	40 yrs.	Per cent each subtotal or entry of grand total
		20 yrs.	yrs.	or over		20 yrs.	yrs.	or over	
Total:	27,100	10,323	8,578	8,199	100	38.1	31.7	30.3	100
Foreign born	9,144	55	1,103	7,986	100	.6	12.1	87.3	33.7
American born	17,956	10,268	7,475	213	100	57.2	41.7	1.2	66.3
(c) Never in Japan	13,059	8,913	4,046	100	100	68.3	31.0	.8	48.2
(a) Visited Japan	4,897	1,355	3,429	113	100	27.7	70.0	2.3	18.1
No schooling	2,583	1,139	1,389	55	100	44.6	53.8	2.1	9.5
Some schooling	2,314	216	2,040	58	100	9.3	88.2	2.5	8.54
1-2 yrs.	127	32	94	1	100	25.2	74.0	.8	.47
(b) 3 or more yrs. (b)	2,187	184	1,946	57	100	8.4	89.0	2.6	8.07
Ending prior to 1930	782	0	727	55	100	0	92.9	7.0	2.89
Ending 1930-1934	583	4	578	1	100	.7	99.1	.2	2.15
Ending 1935 or later	822	180	641	1	100	21.9	78.0	.1	3.03

(a) Of the 4,897, 2,684 (54.8%) were in Japan less than 5 years, and 2,213 (45.2%) were there 5 years or more.

(b) Of the 2,187 who had 3 or more years schooling, 995 (45.5%) attended elementary school only, 1,013 (46.3%) attended both elementary and high school, 23 (1.1%) attended high school only, and 156 (7.1%) attended other schools.

(c) 72.8% (13,059/17,956) of all American-born Japanese have never visited Japan.
54.1% (4,046/7,475) of American-born Japanese aged 20-39 have never visited Japan.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Immediate Release TO PM's OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1944.

An American doughboy's solution of how to handle those who would prevent the relocation of Japanese American citizens from evacuee centers into the normal stream of American life, was received today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes direct from the front lines of the Italian theater of war.

The writer, Corporal J. H. Kety, of the United States Army, laid his rifle aside to pen the following:

"May I suggest that you send all those narrow-minded, bigoted, un-Americans over here to relieve the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 34th Division?"

The 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of American soldiers of Japanese descent, has one of the proudest records of the war. Out of the battalion (1,000 men) 900 have been awarded Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in battle; 36 have been honored with the Silver Star; 21 have won Bronze Stars, and 3 wear the Distinguished Service Cross.

Secretary Ickes' reply to Corporal Kety read, in part, as follows:

"Thank you for your letter. It is quite apparent that you know what you are fighting for."

XXX

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

The following editorial from The Washington Post of July 13, 1944, analyzes the issues involved in singling out only those Japanese and Japanese-Americans living on the west coast for evacuation, relocation and continued exclusion from their homes.

EXCLUSION TEST

"No one, we think, will seriously contend today that the west coast of the United States is in imminent danger of invasion. Yet some 70,000 American citizens, who were evacuated from their homes in that area because they happened to be of Japanese descent, are still forbidden to return, by military decree, on the pretext that a danger of invasion exists. A case testing the validity of this continued exclusion has at last been brought in the Superior Court of the State of California. All Americans, we believe, ought to know the facts in this case and ought to ponder its implications for their own freedom.

"One of the plaintiffs, an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, is a woman named Shizuko Shiramizu. She happens to be widowed. Her husband, Koyoshi Shiramizu, also an American citizen, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds incurred in service with the United States Army in Italy and subsequently died from these wounds. Two of her brothers are now serving in the armed forces of the United States. Mrs. Shiramizu herself has been carefully investigated by the War Relocation Authority and has been adjudged completely loyal to this country. She has been tried by no court and has committed no offense, save that her name has an odd sound and is spelled in a peculiar, foreign way.

"Mrs. Shiramizu would like to go home. Home, in her case, happens to be California, where she was born and lived all her life (until she was evacuated) and earned her living and was married. This attachment to the neighborhood of her birth and her marriage seems neither unnatural nor unAmerican. But the commanding general of the Western Defense Command says that her presence in California -- or the presence of any persons with names like hers -- would endanger the security of the United States. He has acknowledged an improvement in the military situation on the west coast by canceling all the dimout restrictive orders which were once in force. Still, he does not feel that he can safely permit Mrs. Shiramizu to return to her husband's house.

"It is one of the functions of the courts of the United States to protect Americans against arbitrary acts of this kind by military officers. We hope, therefore, that Mrs. Shiramizu will be given her day in court and that the real issues of this case will be studied and assessed. A year ago, the Supreme Court upheld an order by the commanding general of the Western Defense Command imposing a curfew on all persons of Japanese descent. In doing so, however, it made clear that it justified a racial discrimination of this sort only on the ground of an emergency situation

and an urgent national danger. 'Except under conditions of great emergency,' said Mr. Justice Murphy, 'a regulation of this kind applicable solely to citizens of a particular racial extraction would not be regarded as in accord with the requirement of due process of law contained in the fifth amendment When the danger is past, the restrictions imposed on them should be promptly removed and their freedom of action fully restored.'

"From this and from other opinions written by his colleagues in the same case, it appears patent that the Supreme Court would not countenance the continued exclusion of Japanese-Americans from the west coast in the absence of any real and present danger. If the exclusion is based on nothing more than racial hostility, then it raises an ugly threat to the fundamental principles of American life. It bears, as Mr. Justice Murphy pointed out elsewhere in his opinion on the curfew case, 'a melancholy resemblance to the treatment accorded members of the Jewish race in Germany and in other parts of Europe.' If the freedom of citizens can be restricted because of the spelling of their names, then none of us can claim more than a temporary and illusory hold upon freedom.

Press Release
December 17, 1944

The Commanding General of the Western Defense Command at 2 P. M. today revoked the Japanese mass evacuation order, to be effective January second.

Upon being informed of the action Governor Warren promptly notified all Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs and called upon all public officials to join in an effort to develop uniform plans to prevent intemperate action and to promote cheerful compliance with the military decision. The Governor issued the following statement:

"The decision of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command to revoke the mass Japanese evacuation order and to permit the return of those who have established their loyalty to the satisfaction of the Army is based on the military situation as it exists today and is therefore to be respected and carefully complied with by the government and people of this State as were prior orders on the same subject. I am sure that all Americans will join in protecting constitutional rights of the individuals involved and will maintain an attitude that will discourage friction and prevent civil disorder. It is the most important function of citizenship, as well as government, to protect constitutional rights and to maintain order. In this situation both must combine to accomplish that result.

"Any public unrest that develops from provocative statements or civil disturbances that result from intemperate action will of necessity retard the war effort and particularly the flow of needed materials to our boys in the Pacific who are moving steadily but at great sacrifice toward their ultimate goal - Tokyo.

"Most California families have a boy or girl in the armed forces. Military decisions such as these are designed for their ultimate success and speedy return to the homeland. As civilians, it is our duty to comply with such decisions as loyally and as cheerfully as they do."

Department of the Interior
War Relocation Authority
Room 202, Sheldon Building
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION ANY TIME AFTER 9:00 AM EWT, Monday, December 18, 1944.

Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes today issued the following statement:

"The Western Defense Command's action in revoking the blanket exclusion order for persons of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast means in a simpler (?) term that the War Relocation Authority will immediately expand its relocation program to cover the entire country, including the West Coast. It most definitely does not mean that there will be a hasty mass movement of all evacuees back into the coastal area. The War Relocation Authority will continue and intensify its efforts to relocate in parts of the country other than the West Coast those loyal and law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry who are willing to participate in this program. It will also aid those who prefer to exercise their legal and moral rights to return to the West Coast.

"The persons who are eligible for relocation or return to the West Coast have been found by the Army authorities to be loyal citizens or law-abiding aliens. They are entitled to their full constitutional and legal rights and perhaps to something more than ordinary consideration because they have really suffered as a direct result of the War. In a real sense, these people, too, were drafted by their Country. They were uprooted from their homes, substantially deprived of an opportunity to lead a normal life. They are casualties of war.

"It is the responsibility of every American worthy of citizenship in this great nation to do everything that he can to make easier the return to normal life of these people who have been cleared by the Army authorities. By our conduct toward them we will be judged by all people of the world.

I call upon state and local officials throughout the Country and especially on the West Coast and on public and private agencies to assist in the enormous task of returning these people to ordinary community life. I believe that the response will be enthusiastic and whole hearted and I particularly hope that we may see veterans' organizations, like the American Legion, church and welfare groups in the forefront of those who will consider it their responsibility to aid these people and by so doing to show their devotion to the American principles of charity, justice and democracy.

All the evidence available at the Relocation Centers indicates that the majority of the evacuee residents have not yet finally decided whether to return to their former homes or relocate elsewhere and that most of those who will eventually elect to go back will need considerable time in making necessary arrangements before they can actually leave the Centers. The War Relocation Authority is now formulating detailed plans for keeping the westward relocation movement on a gradual, orderly, systematic basis.

People of Japanese ancestry, both at the relocation centers and elsewhere who have been found eligible by the Western Defense Command for residence in the West Coast area are of course free to go back at any time. However, only those whose specific plans for resettlement in the evacuated area are approved by WRA will be eligible for the travel assistance which the Authority now extends to those relocating in other parts of the country. This includes the payment of rail or bus fare to the point of relocation, and transportation of personal properties such as household furnishings.

Statement issued by Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes.

Since most of the evacuees at the relocation centers have had little opportunity to accumulate savings over the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ years they will doubtless need such assistance. Only a few evacuees, therefore, are expected to leave the Centers either for the West Coast or any other destination without first having their plans checked and approved by WRA.

In view of the fact that evacuees were moved from their homes in 1942 by governmental order, the War Relocation Authority will make assistance available to those evacuees, both at the centers and previously relocated who now have urgent reasons and sound plans for returning to the West Coast area. Simultaneously, however, the Authority will continue and intensify its efforts to relocate evacuees in other sections. One of the major WRA aims, from the beginning, has been to encourage the widest possible dispersal of evacuees throughout the nation and this will continue as a prime objective during the final phase of the program.

Of the 110,000 people of Japanese descent originally evacuated, more than 35,000 have now relocated under WRA procedures outside the West Coast area. This includes nearly 70% of the American citizen evacuees beyond the age of 17 who have been eligible for relocation. It also takes in nearly 2,500 Japanese-Americans who have been inducted into the Army of the United States from relocation centers. The great majority of the 35,000 relocated evacuees have become satisfactorily adjusted in their new locations and will possibly want to stay where they are. Many of them, in fact, will doubtless now make arrangements for having their parents and other family members still at the centers come out and rejoin them at their new home.

The mass exclusion order is revoked and the great majority of evacuees are free to establish residence anywhere in the United States. The War Relocation Authority will now work toward an early liquidation of the relocation centers which were established originally for the temporary maintenance of a dislocated people. No center will be closed in less than six months but it is anticipated that all will be closed within a year. Funds have been provided to the Federal Security Agency for public assistance to the state and local welfare agencies for those evacuees who are incapable of self-support.

As the War Relocation Authority enters the final phase of its program, its immediate aim, as always, will be to restore the loyal and law-abiding evacuees of Japanese descent to a normal American environment, to relieve local manpower shortages and to cut down government expenditures for the maintenance of a displaced segment of the population. Its long range objective will be to bring about a better economic adjustment and a more satisfactory nationwide distribution of a minority group which was doubtless too heavily concentrated before the war in one particular section of the country.

Press Release
December 17, 1944

*Enclosure
4/30/45*

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"Any public unrest that develops from provocative statements or civil disturbances that result from intemperate action will of necessity retard the war effort and particularly the flow of needed materials to our boys in the Pacific who are moving steadily but at great sacrifice toward their ultimate goal - Tokyo.

"Most California families have a boy or girl in the armed forces. Military decisions such as these are designed for their ultimate success and speedy return to the homeland. As civilians it is our duty to comply with such decisions as loyally and as cheerfully as they do."

*Crosby -
official
statements*

*HDC
Common
American
Principles*

Full Text Of

THE WAR DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECEMBER 17, 1944
rescinding the mass exclusion orders against persons
of Japanese ancestry formerly residing on the Pacific Coast.

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"Favorable progress of the war in the Pacific, as well as other developments, has resulted in a determination by the commanding general of the Western Defense Command, with the approval of the War Department, that the continued mass exclusion from the West Coast of persons of Japanese ancestry is no longer a matter of military necessity.

Exceptions Made

"For this reason, mass exclusion orders under which persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the Pacific Coast area in 1942 were revoked today through the issuance by Maj. Gen. Henry C. Pratt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command, of Public Proclamation No. 21.

"The revocation order provides that any person of Japanese ancestry about whom information is available indicating a pro-Japanese attitude will continue to be excluded on an individual basis. Those persons of Japanese ancestry whose records have stood the tests of Army scrutiny during the past two years will be permitted the same freedom of movement throughout the United States as other loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens.

Reasons Announced

"The decision to revoke the exclusion orders, first applied on March 24, 1942, was prompted by military considerations. Since the evacuation, our armed forces steadily have pushed the enemy in the Pacific farther from our shores and closer to the Japanese home islands. Although hard fighting is ahead in the Pacific, it no longer can be said, as it could be said in 1942, that an enemy invasion of the West Coast on a large scale is a substantial possibility.

"In 1942, it was impossible to make an immediate determination of which persons of Japanese ancestry were loyal and which were not. Mass treatment of all Japanese-Americans, therefore, was a necessary military precaution. Since that time, persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the coastal area have been thoroughly investigated from the standpoint of loyalty probably more thoroughly than any other segment of our population.

"As a result of these investigations, it has been possible to make progress in separating those who may be dangerous from those who are loyal to the United States. One of the first steps in this direction was taken by the Army itself in selecting those persons of military age among the persons of Japanese ancestry who were acceptable for the Army, initially as volunteers and later under selective service. Many of these men were recruited from relocation centers and many of them have families in the centers. The outstanding record which these men have made fighting for the United States in Italy, in France and in the Pacific has shown conclusively that it is possible to make sound judgments as to their loyalty.

"The War Department is aware that the rescission of mass exclusion will create certain adjustment problems beyond military considerations. It believes however, that adequate solutions for these problems exist. The Department of the Interior has informed the War Department that it intends to put into effect a program based on a gradual and orderly return to the West Coast and a vigorous continuation of its efforts to relocate persons of Japanese descent throughout the United States.

"The War Department believes that the people of the Pacific Coast area will accord returning persons of Japanese ancestry all the considerations to which they are entitled as loyal citizens and law-abiding residents."

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